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Page 20: Photo courtesy of Tangletown Gardens, Page 16: Photo by Chris Tarbox, Page 18: Photo courtesy of Brand g Vacations, Page 26: Photo courtesy of The Link.

ON THE COVER
Jodie Time, left, and Nikki Time, right, are the proprietors of Minneapolis Tattoo Shop.
Photo by Chris Tarbox

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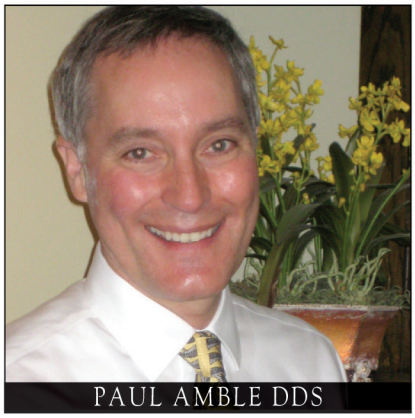

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FROM THE EDITOR | BY CHRIS TARBOX

Legends Of The Fall (Home & Garden)

It's fall, y'all! As we break out the sweaters, hot apple cider and rakes that frustratingly get leaves stuck on them and they won't come off no matter how much you try to shake them off, it's also time to maximize our homes and yards to their aesthetic best for the autumn weather. Seeing as how the fall season is undeniably gorgeous, it only makes sense to make your home just as fabulous.

So if you want to best complement your domain with the reds and oranges of the fall season, you've come to the right place! Here's the 2018 Fall Home & Garden Issue, where we learn about prepping your gardens for fall and winter with Tangletown Gardens, and we explore the new luxury apartment experience offered by The Link.

On top of that, we meet the ladies of Minneapolis Tattoo Shop, take a trip to the lush vistas of Naples, and we learn about a Day In The Life of local filmmaker and performance artist Junauda Petrus.

So throw on the cardigan and read on! Just don't expect me to jump into the pumpkin spice debate. Not touching that one. ■

A WORD IN EDGEWISE | BY E.B. BOATNER

Too Much With Us—Still

Wordsworth lamented:

The world is too much with us; late and soon,

Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;–

Too much with me, too; seeking a simpler time, I read Hendrik van Loon's 1930 *R.v.R.: The Life of Rembrandt van Rijn.*

From *Van Loon's Lives*, where shades of the elite dead visit his home to dine and discourse, I knew Hendrik was a sly storyteller. *R.v.R*'s purported biographer is Jan van Loon, Henrik's great-great-grandfather nine times removed. Physician and friend, Jan is privy to all things van Rijn.

Rembrandt painted at the zenith of the Dutch Golden Age. His portraits and etchings hugely popular, he lived well, possessing guilders, a spacious home, and Saskia, his lovely wife. But the mid-17th century was also the country's Golden Age of business, expansion, and military growth, each impacting the fortunes of artists.

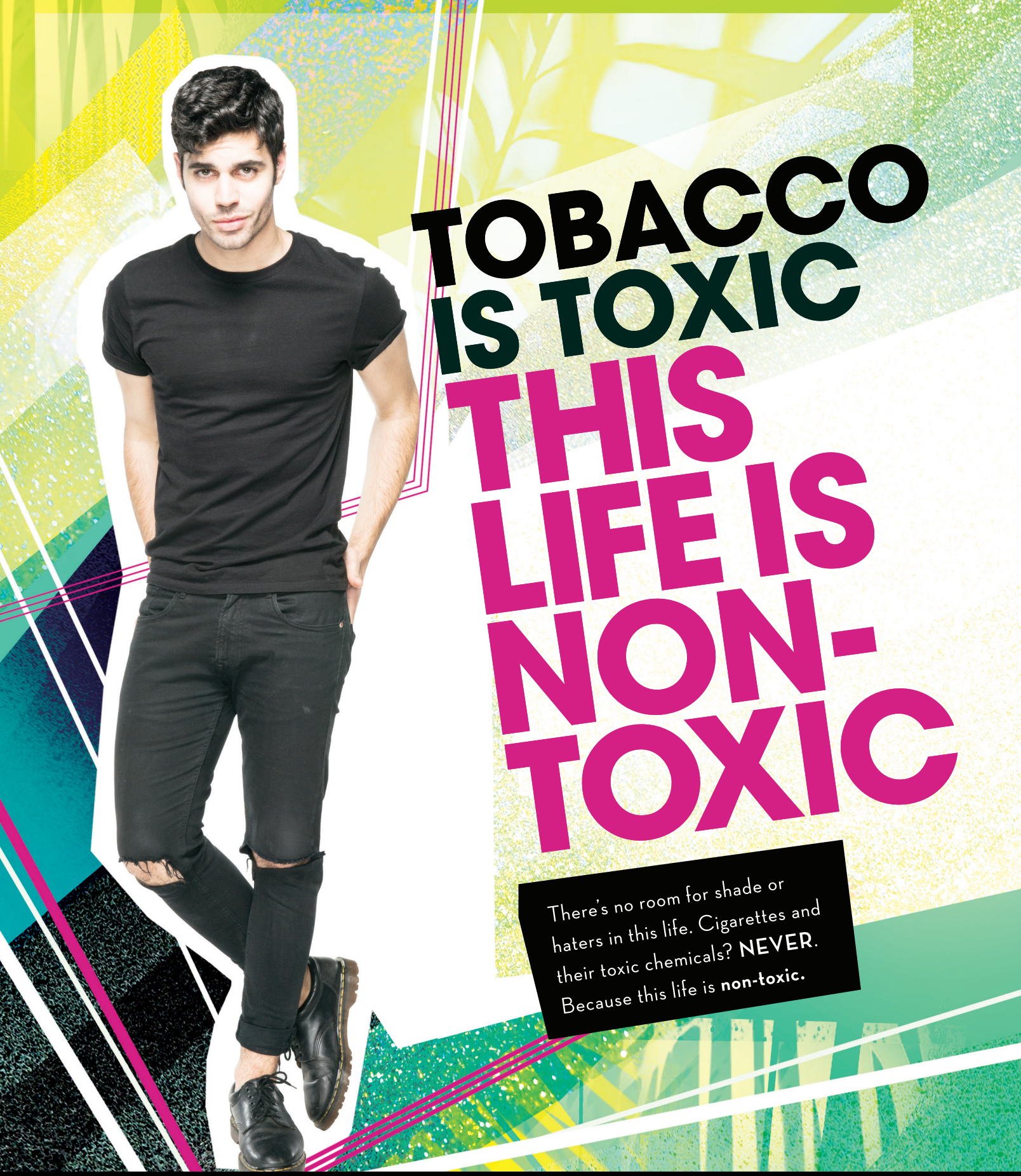
In 1642, Rembrandt secured a remunerative commission to paint Captain Frans Banning Cocq leading the Militia Company of District II. Accepted group portraiture was supposed to resemble be the image (Rembrandt's) used later on Dutch Masters cigar boxes: Clearly visible faces of every man who paid a subscription to be recognized.

Rembrandt's credo: "…Nothing counts in this world except the inner spirit of things," meaning, "The immortal soul of everything that was ever created." To Jan's astounded "Tables and chairs and cats and dogs and houses and ships?" Rembrandt replies, "Exactly."

So in painting the militia, Rembrandt intended to portray not just faces, but "civic duty." "Mark my words," Rembrandt confided, "it will make people talk." They talked. They laughed. They complained; subjects refused to pay; the painting was ludicrously dark, faces were obscured. It was not time to "put an idea into colors."

Jan marks this misjudgment as the beginning of the master's downfall. Borrowing, forgetting/unable to repay, work-obsessed, bankrupt, evicted, Rembrandt abstractedly laid waste his powers, sliding chaotically downward to die at 63 in 1669.

I'd wager one has to search a good deal further back, perhaps precuneiform tablets—which themselves were designed to tally sums and goods—to find a "simple" human society. Should your personal getting and spending lead to Amsterdam, join the throng in the Rijksmuseum taking selfies by Rembrandt's laughable, too-dark painting, better known today as *The Night Watch*. ■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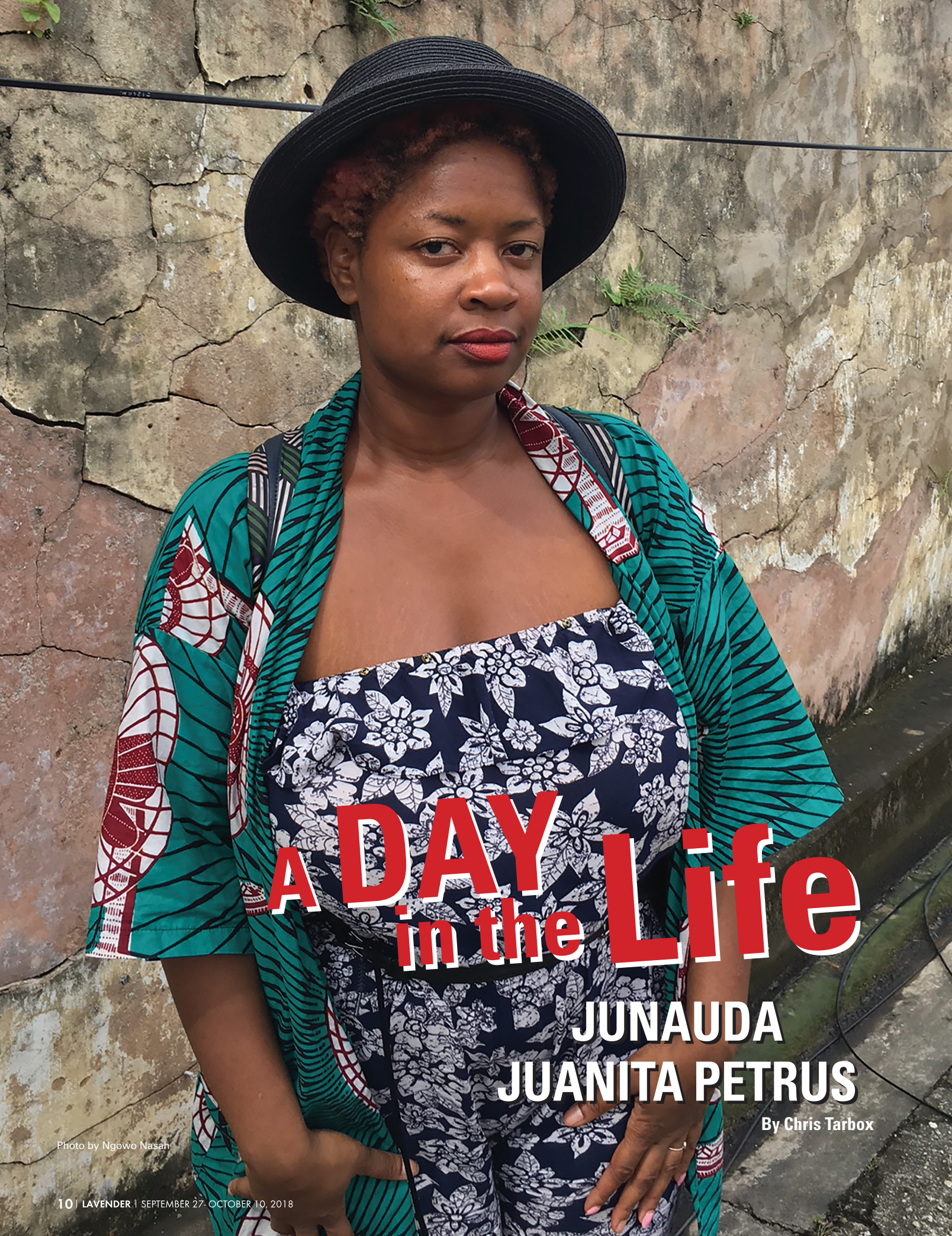

A DAY in the Life

JUNAUDA JUANITA PETRUS

By Chris Tarbox

Photo by Ngowo Nasah

Name: Junauda Juanita Petrus

Where did you grow up? Phillips, South Minneapolis, Dakota Land, baby! My parents are from the Caribbean, so I also feel connected to that part of the world in my heart (My mother is from Trinidad and my father is from from St. Croix, Virgin Islands).

Where do you live? Powderhorn Park

Who do you live with? My partner, Ngowo, and her brilliant and wild four-year-old daughter, Isley, who we have part-time.

What is your occupation? Filmmaker, soul sweetener, writer, performance artist, alchemist, runaway witch, and Cosmic Bag Lady. Formerly, and maybe once again, Black Aerialist. And also co-founder with my bestie, Erin Sharkey, of Free Black Dirt, an experimental artist collective. We are screening parts of our debut film project, *Sweetness of Wild*, on October 3rd at the Parkway Theatre. It will be apart of an installation, bike-riding and poetry experience. It's a fundraiser so we would love our community's support!

When did you come out? It's hard to pinpoint when my "coming out" was, because it continues to be a process. My queerness is just part of my existence, and I decided I didn't need to explain or qualify it.

That being said, I did "come out" to my mom at 30 after moving back to Minneapolis from New York City, however I do wish I had come out earlier, because dating women in Brooklyn woulda been epic!

How'd that go? Sweet, accepting, awkward and nosy a little bit, because, I told my mama and she was like, "Really? Hmmm… Ya kiss a woman, Junauda? Hmm. That is interesting… I wouldn't have known. Really? So you want to be with a woman?" My mom has always had close friends who were lesbian and gay, so she was cool with it. She had questions which was understandable and cute, but it kind of felt like it was an implicit invitation to be all in my business in a way my previous perceived heterosexuality never did. I didn't necessarily want to reflect with her about my journey through my sexual awakening, but I have really appreciated her willingness to learn more about queer issues and support me and my partner.

I made the decision to come out because I was all in my feelings, listening to Frank Ocean (of course). I was inspired by his opening up about his sexuality on his *Channel Orange* album. That album was so dreamy, sensual, free, and reminded me of the sweetness and hope I felt in queer relationships of all kinds, platonic and romantic, and I wanted to live in my full truth for me. I had dated many cis men most of my life and I realized that although I was attracted to them, the alignment was off. I hated the boring and antiquated dynamics of most cis-heterosexual relationships that are fueled and operated by some degree of male supremacy, yet I was trying to fit my yummy queer soul into some configuration of it. I had internalized that being queer would impede me from being accepted. Instead I'm in bliss from just the sheer fact that I accept my entire self.

I decided to never "come out" again. I just started doing me and loving women aloud, and letting people sort they own feelings out about it, since I have already sorted out mine. I feel like the notion of "coming out" is kind of dramatic and traumatic sometimes and not always inherently comfortable in certain cultural spaces, mainly amongst indigenous and folks of color. I think coming out is a shapeshifting, ongoing. It shouldn't rest on queer people to process the emotions around LGBTQIA+ existence for cis-het people in their lives as a default function.

That being said, I'm out to most of my family and they love and accept me, including my religious Caribbean family, which has been sweet. My partner is Cameroonian and her beautiful West African and religious family loves and accepts us too, which I think has healed us on a soul level. It's a blessing. We are inspired by the LGBTQIA+ people and activists from both of our regions who are reclaiming their sacredness and living their lives. They are also doing policy work and advocating for LGBTQIA+ immigrants seeking asylum as well as overturning antiquated, homophobic colonial laws and insisting they be respected and allowed to love in peace in their homelands, which is so inspiring!

When do you wake up? I am an early riser, typically up between 4:45-5:30 a.m., 6 to 7 a.m. if I was up late. My body wakes with the sun. I've been this way even when I was a kid.

Phone alarm or old school alarm? Phone alarm, but I usually wake up before it.

What's the first thing you do in the morning? For years, I would usually lay in bed thinking anxious thoughts, then go pee and start working. Nowadays, I lay in bed and focus on healing affirmations to assuage my early morning anxiety, and then I pee. After that, I wash my face, brush my teeth, make tea and then I sit at my altar and give thanks to the universe, higher power, ancestors and ground in my visions for life.

Breakfast? Yes, tea and fruit and eggs most days.

Coffee? Usually fresh ginger tea and/or turmeric and lemon juice in hot water with honey. But sometimes I'll get a coffee later in the day.

Cream or no? Always cream in my coffee and sweet. Ideally coconut milk creamer, vanilla flavored.

How do you spend your commute: I listen to podcasts if I am driving, or a soul/R&B mix if I'm riding my bike around town. I work with my best friend Erin Sharkey a lot, and if we are riding around together we listen to trap music and talk shit. It's funny, because when I met her she was into Ani DiFranco and soul classics, but now trap. She is a very layered, ever-evolving person.

If your job were like a yearbook, what would you be voted? (Class clown, best dressed, most annoying, etc.) Most likely to fall wildly ass backwards into magic and make that ish blossom into abundant dopeness.

What inspires you? Nature and magic and revolutionary thinkers and activists who are working hard to transform themselves and this world. I'm inspired by astrology and my ancestors. I'm inspired by the future and the beautiful dream I am making it into.

Do you eat your lunch while working or take a break? It depends on the day. I kind of eat all over the place: sometimes a homemade meal, sometimes on the go. I would like to create more structure around that for some more consistency in my life.

Is your work space tidy or a hot mess? Haute mess. Tee hee. I write on a laptop and I tend to sit on my couch with my laptop on my lap. But I have a really nice desk and it's piled with layers of thangs. I need help.

What's been your favorite job? I have had such great jobs! I loved the jobs I had working with kids in Harlem, New York for four years teaching vegetarian cooking, yoga, dance, theatre and gardening. I loved being a waitress at the airport and talking about people's travels. I love working for myself with Free Black Dirt and doing writing and filming projects. I love working with my family with Ingridients and making Trinidadian food for the people.

Who are your heroes? Octavia Butler, Harriet Tubman, Angela Davis, Thomas Sankara, June Jordan, Toni Morrison, Missy Elliot, Sylvester, Bessie Smith and all queer blues women, Whitney Houston. All my LGBTQIA+ ancestors and family worldwide who are attacked in society for our magic. Serena Williams. People who are struggling through suffering and creating new worlds. The writing students and teachers in Minnesota Prison Writers Workshop.

Favorite weeknight meal: Go out, take out, or cook in? Cook in with my boo, Ngowo. I love cooking as an act of affection for myself and my love. We are a good team because she will do all of the prep work so I can cook and then we will clean up together. We cook food from our cultures, mainly veggies and fish with curries, coconut milks, plantains, tamarind, avocado and all of the greens as well as a quick pickled onion and pepper to put some respeck on that flavor.

Most embarrassing moment: I have so many because I was teased relentlessly as a kid for being different. I'll take a pass on this one…

On a usual weeknight, you are doing what? Cooking dinner. Writing. Snuggling with my partner and my bonus kid, Isley. Occasionally Netflix.

Bedtime: Take a warm shower, brush my teeth and shea butter my body. Read, drink tea. Talk with my partner about life and dreams.

Favorite weekend activity: Riding my bike with my partner and pulling our little one in a burley and eating some yummy food. Going on a date with my partner to see some music, art show or a performance, I have a lot of incredible artists friends and love seeing them shine as creatives. Chilling with my mother and siblings, family and friends.

What are you most proud of and why? I'm proud of my beautiful life and my work as an artist and healer. I'm proud of getting a book deal and writing my first young adult novel as well as writing and directing my first film project this year. I'm proud of the place I am with my mental health and my self-acceptance. I'm proud of Free Black Dirt. I'm proud of being queer and being in love and being the best bonus mama, friend, daughter and sister I can be.

Words of wisdom to share: I try to live my life so that the eight-year-old in me feels affirmed in her wild dreams and also live so that the 80 year old me has no regrets. ■

DR. FALSTAFF AND THE WORKING WIVES OF LAKE COUNTY: A PICNIC OPERETTA

Through Oct. 7
Various locations in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Northfield
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mixedprecipitation.org

It may be your last chance to catch outdoor comedy before it gets too cold! Mixed Precipitation's 10th Anniversary Picnic Operetta Production mashes up William Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Otto Nicolai's 19th century German operatic version of that comedy, Bruce Springsteen, and Minnesota's economic history regarding the *United States vs. Reserve Mining* case.

Director Scotty Reynolds relates, "Our show places the silly characters of Shakespeare's comedy alongside contemporary questions about industry, job creation, and the environmental impact of capitalism. Our version takes place on the North Shore of Lake Superior in a historic fishing community and mining town. Contaminated drinking water and a depleted fish population have led to a decade of legal battles with fishermen, environmentalists, and the mining industry. Bruce Springsteen's classic anthems of working life and songs of love are perfect for the struggles of the time."

FERRIS MUELLER'S DAY OFF

Through Oct. 27
Brave New Workshop, 824 Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis
612-332-6620
www.BraveNewWorkshop.com

The Brave New Workshop has a knack for not showing favoritism, left or right, in most of their comedy reviews. Their current spoof on Robert Mueller's controversial probe of the equally controversial Trump administration is an entertaining case in point. Rather than take sides by emphasizing Mueller's entangled couples, Peter Strzok-Lisa Page and Bruce and Nellie Ohr, or spoofing the judicial fireworks erupting over maverick Trumpers like Paul Manafort and George Papadopoulus, director Caleb McEwen's company-created collaboration takes a lighter touch.

Mueller is played by Tom Reed as a by-the-book uptight bureaucrat and Trump, as played by Ryan Nelson, is out of touch with reality. Both characters are conceived as living in their own personal bubbles. These approaches may actually be good ones given that fallout on both sides in real life seems to radically alter every few days or so. Therefore, given that this is a long-running show, it's a smart choice and both actors are a lot of fun to watch. However, Nelson can afford to be more bombastic. That said, his Trump imitation reels in the giggles and smiles throughout.

Ferris Mueller's Day Off. Photo by Dani Werner

However, it's the vignettes beyond the Mueller probe that capture the essence of 2018 with rich farcical juiciness. They're a time capsule of the Mueller/Trump era. In one witty scene, a straight white man played by Nelson is urged to claim falsely that he is racially part black, disabled, and gay. Unfortunately, he can't bring himself to lie and therefore not only thwarts his own upward mobility but is actually labeled as straight white male bigot for not playing what is depicted as the diversity con game. A classy Denzel Belin, an actor of color, is wonderfully wry as part of the mixed-race group that turns on him. Delicious irony and frankly, it's a brave scene at this particular point in time.

BNW revues always have some extraordinary scene that reaches into new territory which I sense comes organically and magically out of their collaborative process and not as some contrivance to be relevant. It's uncanny how this tends to happen. In this production, Comedy Queen Lauren Anderson plays a New Ager who prefaces everything she says with "As a feminist" and is oblivious when Comedy Princess Taj Ruler as an everyday woman is understandably annoyed by it.

Ruler plays someone simply wanting express her anger as a woman and as a human being, but Anderson's character is actually implicitly judging her for not being more serene. When she calmly says "namaste", it's not to be respectful but to be spiritually superior and passive-aggressive. Even the way in which the basic concept of "gratitude" has come to be corrupted by spiritualistic shenanigans factors into the conflict. It also reflects a dynamic playing out widely in our society nowadays, which media outlets are failing to perceive. The insight of this scene is pure cutting edge genius. Inspired.

IS GOD IS

Through Oct. 14
Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 S. 4th St., Minneapolis
612-338-6131
www.mixedblood.com

The OBIE Award is the most renowned award for New York's Off-Broadway theater. It is unusual for a play that has won an OBIE in a given year to then be staged within the same year in the Twin Cities. But that's the case with *Is God Is*, for which Aleshea Harris won one of the 2018 prizes for Best Playwriting. Its themes of vengeance and disfiguration have drawn varied comparisons to Renaissance vengeance tragedies and even Spaghetti Westerns. Its violent goriness, which is portrayed on stage, has been compared to filmmaker Quentin Tarantino and playwright Tracy Letts. And its rage against misogyny brings to mind *The Color Purple* and *Thelma and Louise.*

Director Nataki Garrett is no stranger to plays that delve into the marginalization of women already marginalized. Her 2015 Mixed Blood staging of *Pussy Valley* was a riveting work about pole dancers. She is surely a strong choice to stage *Is God Is*. Garrett says it "explores the taboo of black female anger and the complexity of survival. It's terrifyingly funny and absurdly violent. It's about love and loyalty, sisterhood and rivalry." The area premiere features Dame-Jasmine Hughes who appeared in *Pussy Valley* and who actually appeared in the recent OBIE-winning staging of *Is God Is.* Hughes was named one of last year's Outstanding Lead Performances in *Lavender* for Penumbra Theatre's *Wedding Band*.

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in the regions of erotic passion that runs too hot. Like *La Boheme* (and *Rent*), class divisions stoke its fire and rebellious attitude. You can bet these elements will surely be relished in Minnesota Opera's revival.

Stage director Octavio Cardenas states, "In this production we focus on two main themes: the ability of regret to shape our lives, and its power over the human spirit. Magda (soprano Celine Byrne), in her desire to pursue a reckless, passionate love affair, finds herself inadvertently learning that true love requires self-sacrifice and honesty. Our telling strives to express the power of what could have been."

He continues, "Regret forces us to look towards our past, so we decided to present the story as a flashback, through the eyes of Magda's memories at the outset of World War I. With war on the horizon, she finds herself inspired to live for the moment without considerations of the future consequences. At the end of the war, Magda relives this pivotal period in her life, and considers whether her decisions were the correct ones. She finds herself saddled with the question of 'what if'—if she had the foresight, the knowledge, and the wisdom to have made different choices, and how that would affect the lives of those around her."

The poet Magda loves, Ruggero (tenor Leonardo Capalbo), has his own aria—*Aria di Ruggero*—that sumptuously reflects the man's artistically sensitive nature. *La Rondine*, like *Romeo and Juliet*, laments the anguished heart of forbidden love, a theme that our world always returns to every generation, like clockwork. The barriers that society and our own inner nature put up is something we just can't seem to get away from.

ONCE

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www.latteda.org

An Irish busker and a Czech immigrant meet in Dublin and end up making beautiful music together. The winner of eight Tony Awards is having its first production by a local company, the celebrated Theater Latte Da. Director Peter Rothstein says, "*Once* is a sweet yet complicated modern-day love story, but at the heart of it is the power of music to transcend barriers based on culture, language and class."

Music director Jason Hansen adds "*Once* is written for each member of the acting company to also perform as the orchestra, taking on the dual role of actor and instrumentalist. The rehearsal process has been uniquely complex, but the result is an experience that invites everyone—audience included—to participate in the soul of the show, which is music. We have an incredible ensemble that breathes all of their energy and joy into this gorgeous music that blends Irish and Czech genres."

Actor Ben Bakken shares, "The beauty of *Once* is the depth of the music, helping us access emotions we otherwise can't, bringing people together, and the multiple meanings of each song that is unique to each listener. It is very moving to be in the same room with all these amazing musicians who are acting, singing, playing an instrument, and dancing all at once." ■

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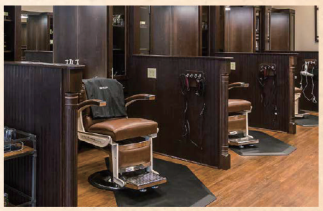

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ARTS & CULTURE | BY CHRIS TARBOX | PHOTOS BY CHRIS TARBOX

Minneapolis Tattoo Shop prides itself on an inclusive environment and a friendly atmosphere.

Love At First Ink

Getting a tattoo is a highly personal decision. In addition to having your skin inked for the rest of your life, most if not all tattoos have a deep or sentimental significance to their owners, and when planning for your own personal pigmentation process, you need to find a parlor that not only values craftsmanship, but hosting a welcoming environment as well.

Minneapolis Tattoo Shop holds both principles in spades.

Rewind to April 2013. When Nikki Time saw that building space at 2211 Lyndale Ave. in Minneapolis was for rent, she decided to try her hand at opening up her very own tattoo parlor.

"I spent about three months renovating everything, and I opened up my doors on April 1, 2013," she says. "I wasn't sure if I was going to get anybody in the doors. I started out with three rooms, and within five years, we have been fortunate enough to buy the whole building. We've expanded to seven artists now, which is amazing."

Half a decade after making the leap into her business venture, Time's shop has become widely celebrated in the Twin Cities for its massively talented roster of artists, handsome shop layout, and its dedication to charitable and socially conscious causes. On top of that, Minneapolis Tattoo Shop proved to be the catalyst for another landmark in Nikki Time's life: love.

About a year after opening the shop, Time encountered a customer named Jodie.

"I'll never forget the day," says Time. "It was snowing, I was sitting up front, and this woman walks through the door in a big fur jacket. She fluffs her jacket off, and I'm like, 'That is the prettiest woman I've ever seen.'"

"I still can't get the picture out of my head," Time continues. "She came in for a tattoo, and she kept coming back, and I was like, 'You probably should stick around.'"

Minneapolis Tattoo Shop's artists allow for a wide variety of inking styles to satisfy the client's specific tastes.

Before long, Nikki and Jodie got married, and Jodie now serves as a co-proprietor of Minneapolis Tattoo Shop. Jodie, who had an interest in tattoos for years and went to art school for photography, proved to be as integral to the shop as her wife. And as a married same-sex couple, Nikki and Jodie have made a point to make their shop as inclusive as possible, with the parlor becoming very popular with GLBT clientele.

"My biggest thing for the tattoo shop when I first opened it was that I wanted it to be a comfortable environment," says Nikki. "Because you can walk into a tattoo shop and they can be pretty intimidating, especially if you don't fit the stereotypical mold… That is why we have such a great clientele, because we've created a comfortable spot. On the forms, we have preferred names so we can touch all the bases."

Nikki and Jodie Time, both in front, flanked by their talented roster of tattoo artists at Minneapolis Tattoo Shop.

What also helps is that the Times' crew of artists are so tight-knit that they practically operate as a family. The shop also offers an embarrassment of comfortable riches, including comfy leather tattoo chairs, tools and salves designed to minimize pain during the tattooing process, and environmentally friendly practices.

"It is a family work setting, where we are all very good friends (spending) 70 to 80 hours all working together," says Nikki. "And there's little details that we nurture, such as making sure that the client is comfortable, and using Lidocaine spray. We all use rotaries here, (which are) a little bit softer on the skin. And we use all-disposable tubes, which is a lot safer. We keep a very clean shop."

Minneapolis Tattoo Shop also participates in flash sales, catered either towards a fandom base—such as Star Wars, Harry Potter or Friday the 13th—or a charitable organization.

"We participated in a nationwide charity fundraiser event that was bringing awareness about people that have been sexually abused or have gone through trauma," says Jodie. "We ended up working with the Sexual Violence Center of Minneapolis, and we raised $7,000 and donated it to the center."

It's that compassionate sense of community that earns Minneapolis Tattoo Shop its praise and accolades, alongside the top-notch ink work.

"(We aim) to give people the best experience in a comfortable environment, walk out with something they're proud of, and we're happy to be there for them," says Jodie. ■

Minneapolis Tattoo Shop
2211 Lyndale Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN
612-875-6717
www.mplstattoo.co

Naples is home to some of Italy's lush locales, such as Capri and Pompeii. Photo courtesy of Brand g Vacations

Naples: Gateway to Pompeii and Capri

Who doesn't love Italian ~~men~~ sightseeing? Naples, on the southern coast, is the gateway to some of Italy's best, with the world-class historical site of Pompeii and the jet-set island of Capri just a few minutes away.

Many cruises include a stop in Naples. Or, if you're traveling to Italy on your own, it's easy to add Naples to your itinerary, since, thanks to a comprehensive and inexpensive rail network, everything in Italy is just a train ride away. So, if you have a day in Naples, you can easily day-trip to one of these amazing locales.

POMPEII

When it comes to ruins, it's hard to do better than Pompeii. (The fact that it gets 2.6 million visitors annually might tell you something.) It's considered by many to be Europe's finest archaeological site, and that's saying something in this land of over-the-top ruins. This city that was forever preserved by a mountain of molten ash and pumice when Mt. Vesuvius exploded almost 2,000 years ago is huge, stunning, and exceptionally well-restored.

A sort of theme park of ruins, it features homes (from modest to mansions), shops, baths, bars, bordellos and more. Taking a walking tour with one of the site's excellent guides, you'll really see and feel what it was like to live in the year 79 A.D., before Vesuvius ended it all with a bang. (The remains of people who died in an instant will transfix you.)

Plan to spend 2-4 hours here. (There's a lot to see.) Do note that parts of it are cobblestone streets, which are very uneven and can be a slight challenge for those with mobility issues. Pompeii is just 15 miles from Naples and is easily accessible by a short train ride or via bus transfers/tours from companies like Viator.

CAPRI

The glamorous island of Capri has long been famous for its picturesque waterfront, Monaco-style collection of yachts, and wealthy Europeans strolling its shopping boulevards. Surrounded by the clearest water imaginable, it's a day-tripper's dream; there's plenty to fill a wonderful morning and afternoon.

Some highlights:

- Take the chairlift up to the top of Monte Solaro and walk down. Gorgeous views and a lovely stroll.
- Visit the Blue Grotto, Capri's most visited site, a large sea cave with

There are plenty of beautiful views to take in when it comes to Naples. Photo courtesy of Brand g Vacations

Pompeii gets 2.6 million visitors annually, and is considered to be Europe's finest archaeological site. Photo courtesy of Brand g Vacations

incredibly blue waters (a function of very clear water and the way the light enters the cave). You can buy tickets to be taken to the cave from the marina, or do an island tour with a visit to the blue grotto.

- All the big-name designers are represented here, of course, but you can also buy beautiful cashmere garments made on the island, as well as local Carthusia perfumes, which are much more unique gifts to take home. And over in Anacapri (which is less glitzy), you can find artisan shoemakers and independent boutiques.
- The Caprese salad (tomato and mozzarella salad) was invented here. And most restaurants feature fairly incredible fresh seafood and vegetables, so whether you go to a mom-and-pop restaurant or a statement restaurant like the glamorous Il Quisi, in the Grand Hotel Quisisana, you'll be guaranteed a memorable, locally-sourced meal.
- One note: Capri does not have good public beaches; it's mountainous with lots of cliffs, which make for great photos from your ferry, but the island isn't good for sunbathing. The few decent beaches are run by resorts and require a day pass or a stay at their property.
- You can catch an inexpensive, high-speed ferry to Capri from Naples' waterfront. It takes 40-50 minutes to reach the island, so it's an easy trip.

And of course, there's no shortage of sights even within the city of Naples itself – like the Catacombs of San Gennaro, as well as many cathedrals and palaces (some of which are now museums). So, although Naples tends to appear several notches down the list of cities travelers choose when thinking about where to go in Italy, it's no slouch in the history and glamour departments.

We won't even discuss the ~~men~~ charm. ■

Eric Poole is Director of Marketing for Brand g Vacations, the Leading Operator of All-GLBT river cruises and land tours.

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Tangletown Gardens boasts a retail center, restaurant, and a team of expert horticulturists. Photo courtesy of Tangletown Gardens

TANGLED UP

In The Colors of Fall

BY KASSIDY TARALA

Tangletown Gardens Principal Scott Endres shares gardening tips and tricks for Minnesota's chillier seasons. Plants are the friends we all need. As they sit in decorative pots on our windowsills, they bring some much needed greenery and livelihood, even during the winter months. As they grow in the bright morning sun in our carefully planted gardens, they bring us both beauty and a hobby. Wherever our plants are, they bring us what all good friends do: beauty, happiness, and—even if we don't always want this one—patience.

Tangletown Gardens offers assistance to customers looking to preserve their plants and gardens during the year's colder months. Photo courtesy of Tangletown Gardens

Scott Endres is the owner of Tangletown Gardens.
Photo courtesy of Tangletown Gardens

At Tangletown Gardens, plants are their primary concern. Whether the horticulturists are helping customers plan the perfect garden, providing advice regarding the changing seasons, or offering some delicious local food, the wonderful folks at Tangletown Gardens do it all.

"It's been a wonderful 16 years so far, and it's been great as we have evolved to offer our customers more services," Scott Endres, principal of Tangletown Gardens says. "There's a lot of passion behind what we do. We really love what we're doing on a daily basis."

With a retail center, garden events, a restaurant, and so much more, the staff at Tangletown Gardens are fully equipped to be the master gardeners and farmers that they are. Whether you're looking for some advice in the preliminary stages of creating your own garden, looking for a gift for the plant-lover in your life, or needing some design advice for the holidays, Tangletown Gardens has you covered.

Though Tangletown Gardens offers services year-round, Endres says that some people run into problems during the fall and winter months when the weather gets colder and the hot summer days are a thing of the past.

"Many people are so honed in on summer and spring that they forget how beautiful fall and winter are. Open your eyes to see that fall and winter can be just as beautiful as the green seasons," he says. "There's no reason why we should spite any season because each season truly does have its own specific draw to it."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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Tangletown Gardens provides horticultural services year-round. Photo courtesy of Tangletown Gardens

Endres says people sometimes struggle to keep their plants alive during the cold months of the year because they don't think they need to care for them as regularly. Because the plants tend to slow down during the fall months, Endres says many people stop watering them as frequently, which is often a cause of plants' inability to survive through the winter.

"Also, consider doing mulching in the fall instead of the spring. It gives a layer of protection to the plants and insulates them from drastic changes with the colder weather," he says. "It speeds the blooming process up in the spring, too."

Tangletown Gardens helps many customers with designing during the fall because people are switching out their summer plants in window boxes with plants that display the colors of fall and winter, especially as we get closer to the holidays.

"We really appreciate all four seasons in Minnesota, so fall colors or even the beautiful lush green of conifer trees in the winter months, pods, cones, berries all help us appreciate the season of either fall or winter," Endres says. "Also, it is never too early to start planting next year's dream garden. In winter especially, true gardeners start planting and dreaming and scheming for their next dream garden, and indoor gardening is great to prepare for the spring season and to add plants into your life during the winter."

Additionally, something to keep in mind during the fall and winter months is the watering and protecting of your outdoor trees. Endres says to consistently water your trees until the ground freezes to prevent conifer browning and other winter damage. Also, for newer trees with weaker bark, Endres suggests getting a plastic tree wrap to keep animals out and to protect it from the aggressive weather changes, which often causes cracking in the bark of young trees.

Endres says they coach customers of all skill levels to achieve the dream garden that is perfect for their lifestyles. Whether you're looking for an indoor array of house plants or a bountiful outdoor garden, Tangletown Gardens can help anyone from beginner to expert.

If you're interested in getting involved with Tangletown Gardens, learning more about how to preserve your plants during the fall and winter, or celebrating the colors of the season, join Tangletown Gardens in their Pumpkin Fest on October 13. More information about Tangletown Gardens, Pumpkin Fest, and more can be found at www.tangletowngardens.com. ■

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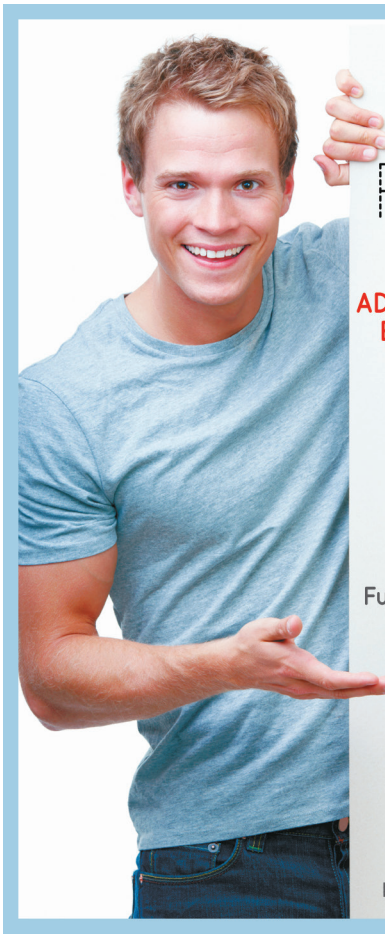

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Home Sweet LINK

BY KASSIDY TARALA

The Link is a new apartment complex in the Prospect Park neighborhood. Photo courtesy of The Link

Learn about Prospect Park's new apartment complex The Link. When many people think of the neighborhood of Prospect Park, they often think of the lush greenery, small shops, local school, and rows and rows of historical homes. While Prospect Park continues to maintain this small-town-in-a-big-city charm, it's proving that it has a modern draw to it, too. The Link Apartments recently staked their claim in Prospect Park right between the Green Line and recently-opened Fresh Thyme. Shooting up to the sky far above the rest of the neighborhood, The Link is a new addition to Prospect Park that refuses to go unnoticed.

The Link offers studios, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units for residents. Photo courtesy of The Link

"The name seemed to fit not only the building layout, but also the community, as Prospect Park brings together a variety of different people from across the globe. Our community offers two different packages: a luxury tower featuring classic elegance and a low-rise featuring modern and fresh design that allows people from a variety of home tastes to co-exist in a space that works for all," says Rachel Goldstein from The Link Apartments corporate. "In the new age of technology, we are often separated from genuine human interaction and basic connection with our surroundings, which is something The Link has founded itself on overcoming."

Goldstein says the location of The Link is what really draws residents to it. Right next to the Green Line, a grocery store, and across the street from a whole slew of local shops and restaurants, The Link allows its residents to get involved in the community and explore everything that makes Prospect Park unique.

"We strive to help busy lives slow down and enjoy everything the city has to offer, including spaces for every taste and frequent and friendly community events. Our amenity-driven apartments have everything all in one place—a 3,000-square-foot fitness facility, golf simulator, music studio, business and conference center, resident sky-line lounge, and 365-day rooftop patio," Goldstein says. "We are also located directly off of the Prospect Park Green Line station and have an on-site, full service grocery store, in addition to being minutes away from local favorites such as Surly and T-Rex Cookie. With quick access to downtown, entertainment options, and convenient building features, The Link is your connection to the best of it all!"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

The Link's model units were designed by the Twin Cities' own Habitation Furnishing. Photo courtesy of The Link

In addition to its great location and abundant amenities, Goldstein says The Link offers residents a skyline lounge, year-round rooftop patio including cabana lounges and an over-sized hot tub, rooftop dog park, a fitness center worth quitting your gym membership for, and an entire media suite equipped with a movie theater. With all of these amenities, The Link is a great location for residents to feel comfortable at home and enjoy entertaining—and impressing—guests.

Though everything inside makes The Link a unique apartment building to call home, it's the neighborhood that truly makes The Link what it is, according to Goldstein.

"The Prospect Park neighborhood is rich in its history and has been increasingly a place of interest for people looking to get ahead of location trends. The neighborhood is a culturally diverse area and brings together people from all walks of life and experiences," she says. "The Link strives to bring this diverse population together under one roof and offers 55 different layout options across two finish packages to suit any taste. In an area of well-loved treasures, The Link creates a central connection for neighbors with the only grocery store available within a ten-minute radius."

Goldstein says the units in The Link are specifically designed to suit the lifestyles of all types of residents. From students at one of the neighboring universities to young professionals to couples looking for a first home together, The Link has something for everyone.

"Our model units were beautifully designed by Habitation and have proven to be a hit among all of our prospective residents. The style that Habitation provided is eclectic and suits a variety of tastes, from students to executives to city-going families, everyone has found a fit with what we have to offer and has had design inspiration from our show units," Goldstein says. "The Tower residences feature white quartz countertops, elegant pendant lighting, wood-style floors throughout, floor-to-ceiling windows with sweeping views, and spa-like bathrooms. The Low-Rise features grey quartz countertops, light wood cabinets, wood-style flooring, with select units having balconies. Other highlights between the two styles include oversized walk-in closets, washer and dryers, and stainless steel appliances."

If you're interested in learning more about The Link Apartments, visit their website at www.linkliving.com. ■

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SEPT. 1, 2018

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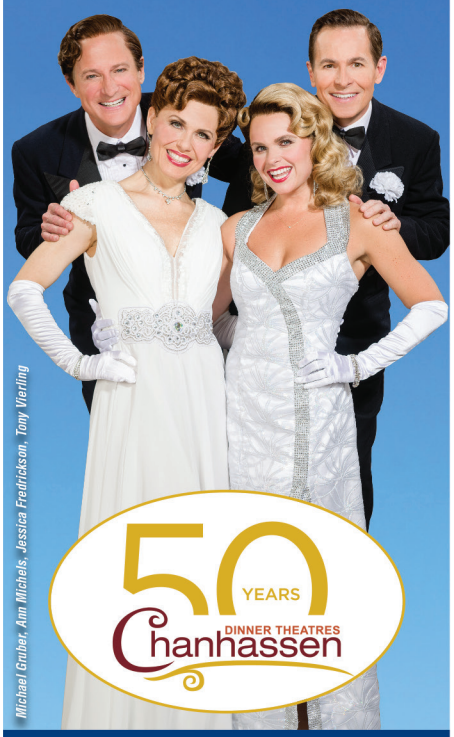

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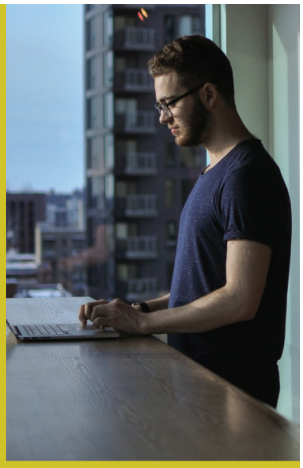

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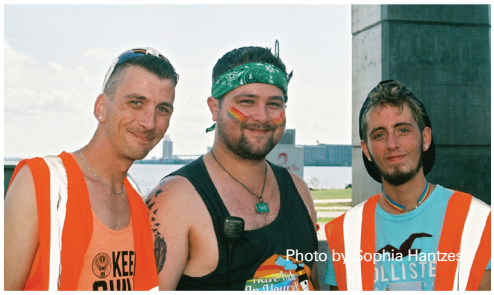
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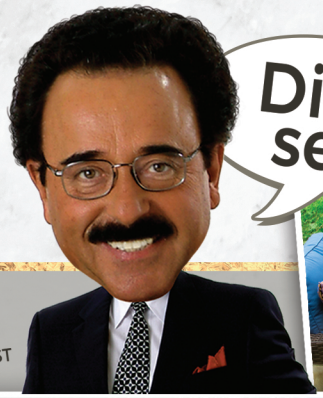

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LEATHER LIFE | BY STEVE LENIUS

Where Sex and Technology Meet

Images by Steve Lenius

Almost 20 years ago, I wrote a column examining new sexual frontiers (new at the time, anyway) made possible by advances in technology. This column is an update on this fascinating topic. We'll look at some of the latest sexual technology achievements, as well as some technology that isn't quite ready yet—or that, when applied to kink, may never be ready.

For many years it has been an open secret that the "adult entertainment" industry was an early adopter and popularizer of new inventions and technologies. Soon after their introduction, technologies such as photography, motion pictures, instant cameras, cable television, VCRs, DVD players, personal computers, webcams, internet video, streaming video, smartphones, and tablet computers all were used for erotic purposes.

In 1999, I described three innovations in sex technology. For men there was the Bonerman, best described as a milking machine's evil child. It was custom-fit to each purchaser, and therefore very expensive. For men and women there was the PoniRocR, an upholstered hump containing mechanics that could vibrate and move any of over 160 different combinations of flexible attachments.

Either the Bonerman or the PoniRocR could be remotely controlled through the emerging science of "cyberdildonics." At the time I wrote, "Your computer's mouse will give new meaning to the word 'joystick' as you control your lover's PoniRocR, Bonerman, vibrator or other 'marital aid' from any Mac or PC with an internet connection and a web browser—while you watch their reaction via WebCam, of course."

Today these devices seem so quaint, don't they? Time and technology have marched on, and the Bonerman's and PoniRocR's descendants need no power cords and no wired connections to a computer or the internet. The new breed of dildos, vibrators and stimulators are small, light, portable, cordless, and connect to the internet wirelessly by Bluetooth or WiFi. Instead of a Mac or PC, they are controlled with a smartphone, which also takes the place of a webcam. "Cyberdildonics" has become "teledildonics."

Erotica is another example of stunning technological change. In 1999, an erotic film could be viewed in a theater—and it really was film, not video. Video was for at-home viewing—perhaps from a DVD, but more probably from a videocassette. And the television set used to view the video almost certainly was a bulky box containing a picture tube that produced a fuzzy image.

Today, erotica is streamed on demand over the Web. The crystal-clear images are viewed on flat-screen TVs, computers, tablets and smartphones. Even more dazzling, virtual-reality porn is now a thing as well, for audiences both straight (who have lots of choices) and gay (who have fewer choices). If you're looking for a new use for your virtual-reality gaming headset, here it is. Or you can view virtual-reality porn by getting a cardboard virtual-reality headset shell into which you insert that jack of all trades, your smartphone.

One of today's hottest developing technologies is AI, or artificial intelligence—and AI, too, is being explored for erotic applications. Clients of one prominent Internet dating/hookup service turned out to be communicating with artificial intelligence bots rather than real people. And efforts are underway to turn sex dolls, which have been used since at least the 1700s, into convincing sex robots (female and male, by the way) by endowing the dolls with artificial intelligence technology. (*Stepford Wives,* anyone?)

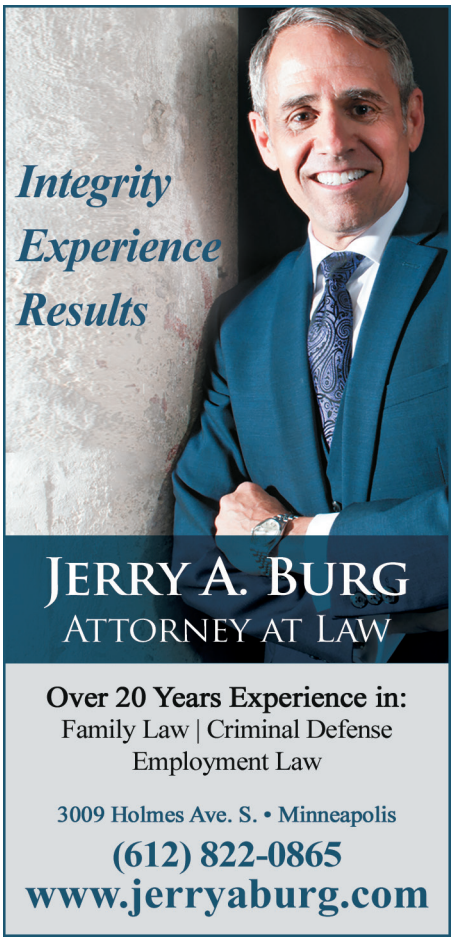
Unfortunately, there may be a few flies in the technological ointment. One example: According to internet reviews, some implementations of teledildonics technology can be buggy and temperamental.

But beyond that, there is the whole matter of using technological advances appropriately. Technology used to enhance sex can be great. Technology as a substitute for sex? Probably not as great, even if it's sometimes necessary.

When it comes to enhancing sexual pleasure, there are things technology can do and things technology can't do. For example, Bluetooth-enabled dildos and vibrators are available now, but I don't know of anyone building a Bluetooth-enabled, remote controlled flogger.

You could probably tie up a sex robot, but what would be the point? And good luck finding a sex robot that can tie you up.

A person watching a BDSM video on a virtual-reality headset might feel as if they're right there in the dungeon watching the action—but they can only watch, not participate. At this point in history, at least, participation requires a real dungeon and real people. ■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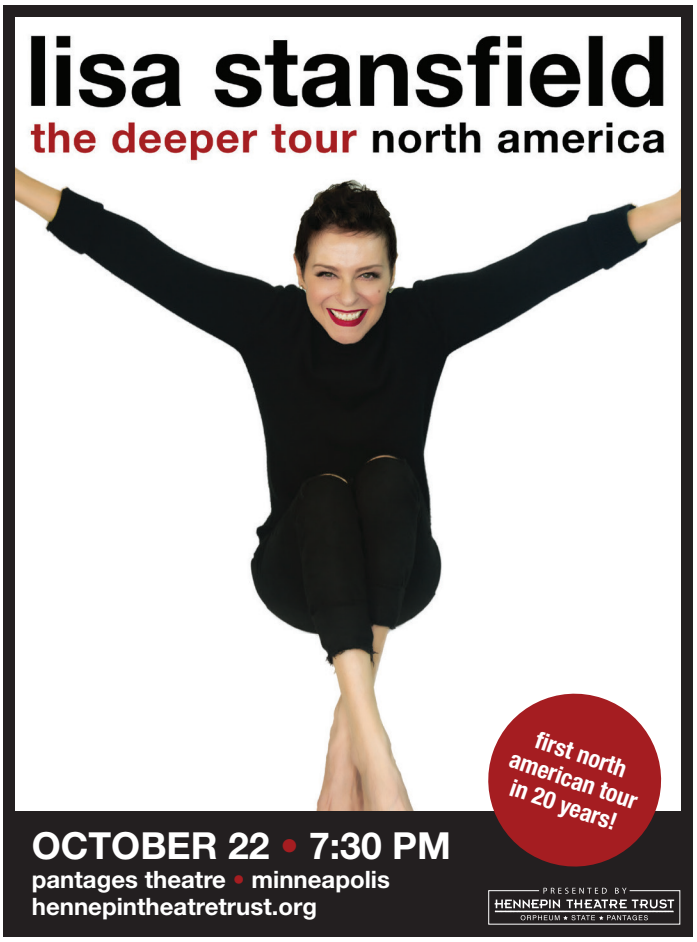
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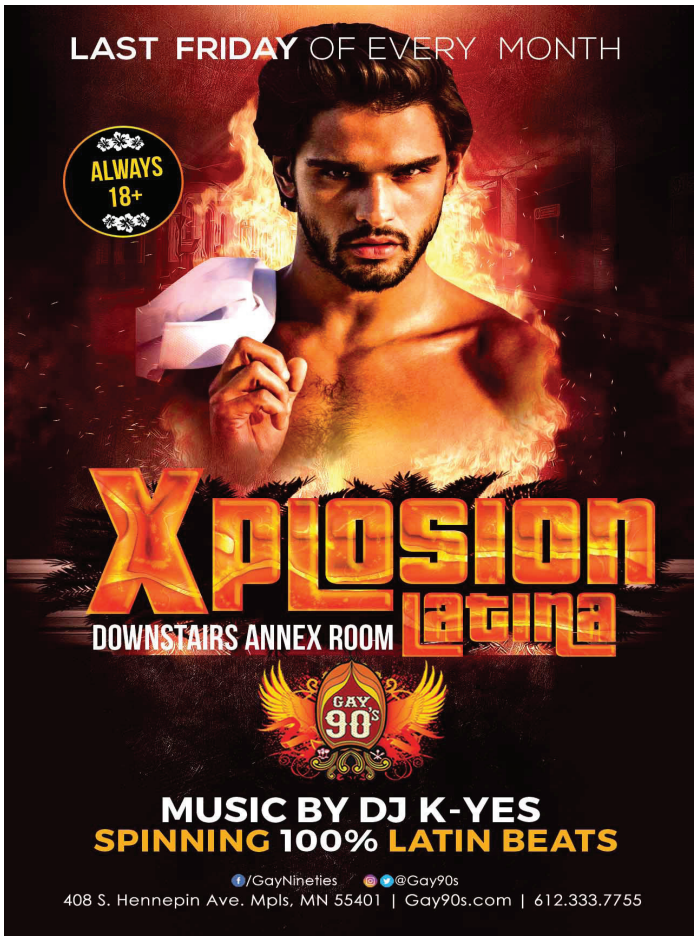
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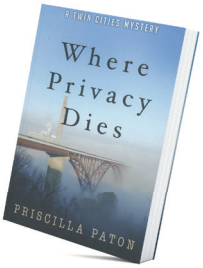
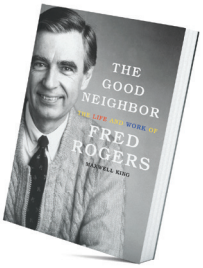


Where Privacy Dies: A Twin Cities Mystery

Priscilla Paton
Coffeetown Press
$15.95

When the corpse of a well-dressed businessman is discovered in a wetland, and a photo of a dead or unconscious girl is discovered in the said corpse's shoe, Detective Erik Jansson and new partner Deb Metzger are put on the case. There's confusion concerning the executive's murder, when higher-ups become implicated, and friction between the mismatched detective duo. Erik is the shy, silent type, while Deb self-styles as "six-foot-two, lesbian and scary." The executive worked for a reputation management outfit that is linked to a philanthropy for abuse victims. Becoming ever darker and more complex, Erik's own reputation becomes suspect. This debut novel promises more to come, featuring Jansson and Metzger, snappy repartee, and dark secrets below the fabled Minnesota Nice waiting to be revealed.



The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers

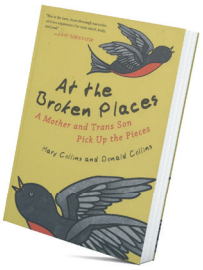
Maxwell King
Abrams Press
$28

On the 50th anniversary of his seminal TV show Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, author King's rich and rigorous biography reveals the behind-the-scenes reality of creator Fred Rogers to be one of seamless determination and empathy, totally dedicated to his millions of young viewers. Rogers grew up in wealthy circumstances, a shy, chubby child, teased at school and plagued with health issues. Often kept at home, where he created his own puppet theater, he observed his parents, mother Nancy in particular, attending to their less fortunate neighbors in Latrobe, PA. The path to the show was circuitous, but Rogers hewed to his determination to bring kindness, compassion, and clarity to the youngest children. He addressed difficult subjects, death, fear, anger, but never condescended. An extraordinary life celebrated.

Firsts: Coming of Age Stories by People with Disabilities

Ed. Belo Miguel Cipriani
Oleb Books
$15.95

Editor Cipriani, author of Blind: A Memoir, presents the Oleb Books debut volume of books dedicated to publishing disability stories by disabled writers. Eleven authors describe their "firsts," in love, business/education venture, sex. Kevin Souhrada, a "second-generation deaf man," married to a deaf woman, in "The Hearing Child" confesses his chagrin on being told his third child is "normal." Gay, wheelchair-bound Andrew Gurza recounts thirteen years later in "Baring It All" that he wanted most of all to be naked with another man. Legally blind Cathy Beaudoin in "I Did It" tells what it took to earn an Accounting PhD and tenured professorship. Successful or set back, each First represents an insight into another's world, and a significant milestone in that author's growth and self-acceptance.



At the Broken Places: A Mother and Trans Son Pick Up the Pieces

Mary Collins and Donald Collins
Beacon Press
$16

Single mom Mary Collins learned that her fourteen-year-old daughter, attending a prestigious New England prep school, was being referred to by a new name by teachers, and intended to transition to a boy. Now further down the road, the two have written counterbalancing essays that give valuable insights on how they fit their new lives back together, with different pieces to make a different, yet respectful and loving, new picture. Mary mourns the loss of her daughter, was enraged by loss of autonomy over her child in the face of new legal parameters, while Donald fought to keep his own autonomy over his body and medical decisions. A section of the book is devoted to interviews with other parents and trans children. Moving and demystifying. ■

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RIDE REVIEW | BY RANDY STERN | PHOTOS BY RANDY STERN

2019 Volvo XC40

Volvo has finally made a "fun sized" vehicle right for urban living.

The 2019 XC40 is an all-new crossover/SUV for the Swedish brand. At 174.2 inches long, the newest Volvo is short enough for street parking or tighter spaces in ramps, but stylish enough for the valet line at your favorite restaurant.

Knowing how much GLBT people love Volvo, we figured we add some expert opinions from our own community to tell this small crossover/SUV's story. You have probably seen Kline Volvo's ad featuring salespeople Jordan Lundmark, Jonas Nilsson, and Nathan Tufvesson in our Pride Edition. We had the chance to talk to these GLBT Volvo experts to find out whether the 2019 XC40 is the right vehicle for our community.

"When [the XC40] stacked up against the competition from Mercedes, Audi, and BMW," said Lundmark, "It certainly shines much better than those in terms of safety especially also technology." Nilsson adds, "[The XC40] was a totally new model and it presented them with unique opportunity to recreate what a small SUV should be and who it is for. It tends to be for a specific kind of buyer and a little bit it was to some degree aimed at a younger audience and when they did that they considered that. So, they considered things like wireless smartphone charging and stuff like that. They kind of took their own Volvo view of things, and it's when you're buying a smaller car you're not losing features."

And, who would buy an XC40? Tufvesson observed, "What I'm finding is a lot of these customers are new to Volvo. We, of course, have our current customers that love and adore our cars the way they sit now, but time and time again I've never thought about a Volvo before. What is this new Volvo? I think from there we do see millennials. We do see an older age group that has gone from their 850 to their 70 to an XC60, now circling back to an XC40."

"There has been a heavier presence of city dwellers, if you will, because they do like the size," adds Lundmark. "They like that they can get a car that's footprint is overall fairly small but still can have amenities like higher ground clearance, all-wheel drive and again back to safety and

technology that before was limited to a much more expensive or a much larger car that it does make for an opportune vehicle for something that does live in a tighter area of the city to still get everything they want in a Minnesota rated car."

One note about the XC40 that makes it unique is that you can subscribe to one. Care by Volvo is a program that enables an XC40 user to have the vehicle for a two-year period paying a flat monthly fee that includes insurance and maintenance. There is a limit of 15,000 miles per year under this program. Care by Volvo XC40s are pre-specified and are available in two trims only. You can do an upgrade to another Volvo after 12 months.

So, what do we think of the 2019 Volvo XC40? We love it! The package itself is great for every place—from the North Loop to Oakdale to Crookston. The small size and high ground clearance are great for traffic, parking, and for everything you can put it through. The look is spot on, with familiar Volvo features, great vision front and rear, and wide opening doors.

The liftgate also opens wide to accommodate plenty of items in the cargo hold. The floor can also be positioned as a divider, protecting groceries from the rest of the rear space. The rear fold down to make more room for flat-packed furniture and big-ticket purchases.

We love the room inside, which is great for four people—five in a pinch. The driver gets a customizable instrumentation screen, along with the tablet-like Sensus infotainment system. Climate control, Adaptive Cruise, along with the semi-autonomous Pilot Assist, are part of the XC40s package.

Our R Design tester is the sportier of the three models available in the XC40. A black roof contrasts with the body color for all R Design models and you can get one with a Lava (orange) carpeting and trim inside with its own distinctive trim all around. This includes the very short gear lever, wrapped in black leather and white stitching. XC40s are also available in Momentum and Inscription trim levels, too.

The XC40 comes with a choice of two engines at this moment. The T4 and the T5 are the same turbocharged four-cylinder engine, but with different levels of power. Our tester had the T5 engine with all-wheel drive and an 8-speed automatic transmission. In fact, if you want all-wheel-drive, you must get it with the 248-horsepower T5 engine. We love the power the T5 engine provides for the small SUV/crossover on both in town and on the highway. We turned an average of 24.4 MPG in our care.

You can get a new XC40 starting from $33,200 for the T4 Momentum model. Our T5 R Design AWD tester came to $45,830. If you do the Care by Volvo subscription service, your inclusive monthly payment starts from $650.

(L-R) Nathan Tufvesson, Jonas Nilsson, and Jordan Lundmark of Kline Volvo, Maplewood, MN

The question remains is whether the 2019 Volvo XC40 is the right vehicle for you—rather, for us in the GLBT community. Tufvesson responded by saying, "We look at other car brands. You can definitely see where things like status, appearance, things like that come into play where these customers are making decisions about the cars from all walks of community. What Volvo really represents is that humanitarian base. That's really about people for people and with that comes the inclusion of our [GLBT] community. And Volvo does a really great job, I think of really making everyone feel welcome."

Nilsson concludes, "There isn't something that makes this one much different in [a] sense that I feel like if you're a [GLBT] person you could buy any car depending on what your lifestyle is like. I mean, you could buy any car, but I'd like to think it's the company itself, Volvo, on the whole."

This is exactly why we love Volvos so much! Take it from the experts, the 2019 XC40 is a great choice for us. ■

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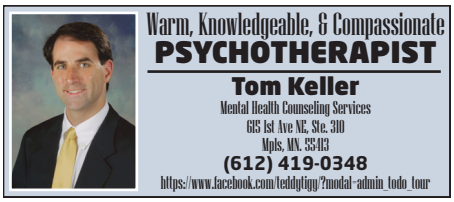

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OUR VOICES

SKIRTING THE ISSUES | BY ELLEN KRUG

Attention To Detail

The woman behind the front desk at the gastroenterologist office seemed friendly enough. I had detected an east coast accent; "Let me guess, New York?" I said.

"Close," she answered. "Connecticut."

As I fished for my driver's license and health insurance card, we went back and forth about our respective New England experiences; me as a lawyer in Boston, she with growing up near New Haven. It was a few minutes of respite from fretting about my impending doom—a colonoscopy—something that I'd been dreading for a good two days.

"Here you go," she said with a smile as she handed back my things. I then watched her pull a wristband from the small printer on her desk. "Put this on and take a seat over in the waiting area until they call your name. Good luck!"

As I worked to connect the wristband adhesive ends, I thought, *What a nice person. Maybe this won't be such an ordeal after all.*

My daughter (my ride) and I sat in the waiting room until a smiling nurse—let's call her Mary—said my name and escorted me into a prep bay. Once there, I verified basic information and received a brief primer on the procedure. A second later, Mary stepped out of the bay while I changed into a surgical gown.

Waiting now, I looked at the band on my left wrist for the first time. It read in part:

Krug, Ellen DOB: 12/xx/xxxx 61 yrs. M

It took a moment for the "M" to register. When it finally did, I felt a rush of anger tinged with fear—how dare they decide my gender for me! Who the hell do you think you are! Didn't you even look at me—a tall fit blonde with make-up and painted toes wearing a sundress?

Yes, I still have a vestige of maleness with my way-too-masculine voice, but really? That's what you're going to hang your hat on for my gender?

The fear: that I'm so horrible at passing for female it has everyone—except these folks—simply going along with the Ellie Krug masquerade.

At that point, Mary reappeared.

"Mary," I said, desperately trying to control my anger, "Why do I have an 'M' instead of an 'F' on my wristband? Didn't your person out front look at my driver's license with an 'F' gender marker? Didn't she see that I certainly look like a woman? Why does she get the right to decide my gender?"

My legs tensed; I imagined jumping up and running to the front desk where I'd pull my up the surgical gown. *See*, I'd say to the lady from Connecticut. *I've got one just like you.*

Mary stumbled for an answer. "I don't know why there's an 'M'," she answered. "But I can see that this is very troubling to you. It would be to me as well."

I needed way more than empathy from her.

"We need to fix this," I responded. "Like now." I didn't want the wristband on me for another minute. I added, "And I'm certainly not going back into the procedure room only to die with an 'M' on my wrist."

Perhaps the latter part was a bit overly dramatic; still, a brief video they showed me said there was a "one percent chance of death" with any colonoscopy. I didn't want to take any chances.

Mary scrambled out of the room and once again I was alone with the "M." I sat fuming and hurting, and only then did it dawn on me.

Their whole system—every single record—has me listed as male instead of female.

Damnit.

Side note: One of the first things you're taught in law school is to pay attention to detail; had I really done that this day, I would have spotted the "M" when the receptionist handed over the wristband and perhaps avoided some of what I was experiencing now.

Ten minutes later, the nurse manager arrived holding a new wristband with an "F." She clipped off the old band and attached the new.

"I'm sorry for this," she said. She reported that my records in their system had also been converted to female. "I don't know how this happened, but I'll investigate and call you tomorrow."

I'm happy to say the colonoscopy turned out okay.

The next day, the nurse manager called as promised.

"Someone in our system logged you as male at the time your appointment was made," she advised. "The receptionist saw the 'F' on your driver's license but kept to protocol and listed you as male. Obviously, we need to keep that from happening again."

"Obviously" was an understatement.

It's amazing how a single alphabet letter can make all the difference in the world.

Every T person knows this all too well. ■

Ellen (Ellie) Krug is the author of Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change *(2013). She speaks and trains on diversity and inclusion topics; visit www.elliekrug.com where you can also sign up for her newsletter, The Ripple. She welcomes your comments at ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com.*

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